

B.C.R.

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT

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A. Political-Economic**1. Question of Nuclear Weapons for European Satellite Countries**

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- a. In mid-April, [] the USSR, at present, are making efforts to prevent the equipment with nuclear weapons [] from a purely military point of view, such an armament [] would be of no decisive importance to the USSR. []

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[] Moscow did not want to furnish a case for the GDR, Czechoslovakia and Poland, on the grounds of which these countries could demand atomic weapons for their armed forces. The Kremlin is trying to avoid such a development since the USSR does not intend to equip the satellite countries with nuclear weapons []

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- b. In mid-April, Czech Defense Minister Lansky stated before the National Assembly that the Czech armed forces would not be equipped with atomic weapons. Lansky had just returned from Moscow where he participated in talks with Marshal Koryov on defensive measures against the "German danger". On this occasion, Koryov turned down the suggestion of a meeting of the members of the Warsaw Pact. A Czech request for atomic weapons forwarded by the Czech foreign minister was also turned down by Moscow []

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[] Comment. The report confirms that Moscow does not want and, from a military point of view, is not forced to equip the satellite countries with atomic weapons. []

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2. Dissolving of the Slovak CP?

Political circles in Pressburg believe it possible that the Slovakian CP will be officially dissolved and incorporated into the Czech CP on occasion of the congress of the Slovakian CP called in for May 1958 []

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[] Comment. Although the information is forwarded with some reserve, it may indicate which drastic measures are being considered in order to check Slovakian separatism dangerously active also in party circles.

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3. Agricultural Policies in Czechoslovakia and Rumania

- a. In mid-April, leading functionaries of the Landes organizations of the CPC held a meeting in Prague, the main topic of which was the agricultural situation. Hrdyich, second man after Nevotny in the CPC Central Committee, declared himself against a deactivation of MTS after Soviet pattern, stating that such a measure would be interpreted by the collective farmers as "signal for conversion" and that the newly-founded collectives could be only maintained if their dependency on the MTS would []

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- b. The Rumanian CP, at an agricultural meeting, turned down the request made there to rush agricultural collectivization on the grounds that Rumania did not want any experiments. It was stated that farmers shall no longer be pressed to join the collectives, and that MTS are not only to be maintained but even to be further improved []

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Comment. The fact that agricultural problems are constantly taken up at meetings and conferences clearly indicates the extraordinary difficulties which party and government agencies of satellite countries face in collectivizing their agriculture. Khrushchev's MTS experiment has caused confusion, particularly because the Kremlin apparently left way and speed of execution of the collectivization entirely to the individual satellite countries.

4. Selling of Machinery to Kolkhozes and Grain Prices in the USSR

For Khrushchev the only purpose of the reorganization of the MTS is the desired increase of agricultural production. This end cannot be reached by the turning-over of machinery to the kolkhozes alone. A significant increase of agricultural production can only be achieved in connection with an economically sound revision of prices for agricultural products. Since September 1953 for example, the state has paid 25 to 30 rubles per 100 kg of grain delivered within the framework of obligatory delivery quotas and 85 to 125 rubles per 100 kg for additional purchases. The prices for obligatory deliveries remain considerably below prime costs of the kolkhozes. In 1956, the state drew some 39 million tons of grain i.e. 72 percent of the total crop, from the kolkhozes. Of these 39 million tons, some 16.5 mill tons or 42.3 percent were delivered to the MTS as payment in kind, some 16.5 mill tons or 42.3 percent represented obligatory deliveries¹⁾ and the remaining 6 mill tons or 15.4 percent were additional purchases by the state. Thus, the kolkhozes, in 1956, sold about 85 percent of their marketable²⁾ grain to the state at a price below and only 15 percent at a price exceeding prime costs. In the future, the Soviet government will subsequently be forced to pay the kolkhozes a price approximately halfway between obligatory delivery and additional purchase prices. This is a prerequisite for an increase of production. Recent observations show that the Soviet CP is not able to direct the turning-over of MTS machinery to the kolkhozes (turning-over within a period of several years) as intended. For economical reasons, every kolkhoze must try to get the MTS machinery as quick as possible since the annual payments in kind to the MTS are almost as high as the price to be paid for the machines. In the Ukraine for example, the turning-over of the MTS machinery to the kolkhozes is practically completed. The development in the other areas of the USSR will probably be a similar one. Kolkhozes, as well as kolkhoze farmers, received strong support by the measures initiated or approved by party and government. This will encourage them to try to get additional concessions out of the Soviet government. A "new exploitation wave" directed against kolkhoze farmers as was reported by part of the Western press is at present out of the question.

See also supplements.

Note 1) agricultural products subject to obligatory delivery include grain, potatoes, vegetables, milk, meat, eggs and wool.

2) marketable grain of the kolkhozes includes payment in kind to the MTS, obligatory deliveries to the state and additional purchases by the state, cooperatives and the kolkhoze market.

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B. Armed Forces**I. GDR****Recruiting and Replacement Administration**

1. About mid-March, recruiting activities for the NVA increased considerably.

[] Replacements for units of the Potsdam post arrived after
Easter. []

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[] Comment. Measures launched in late 1957/early 1958 also were to secure priority for the recruiting of volunteers for the border police (DGP). [] According to available information, the recruiting campaign which was to fill up DGP units, had not yet yielded the desired result by mid-March. It is therefore assumed that the possibly temporarily intensified recruiting for the NVA was to furnish replacement for the imminent spring discharges.)

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2. Since March/April, young teachers not willing to volunteer for a 2-year term of service right after their final state examination, have allegedly been inducted for 2-3-month infantry training with the NVA. This training was to be supplemented by 1 or 2 refresher courses. Older teachers were simultaneously offered 6-week courses enabling them to become reserve officers, a possibility which is being made use of in many cases []. It is planned to conduct 4 x 6-week basic training courses for 18 to 35-year old, untrained government employees and officials of the Potsdam district in Brandenburg-Hohenstein; the first course was to start in early May, and participants were to be sworn in after 2 weeks. Following basic training, they were to decide on the branch of service they wanted to join [].

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[] Comment. Recruiting and detachment for courses of the above-mentioned type have apparently been under way for several weeks with various state institutions and enterprises, as well as party and mass organizations. The age limit for the Reserve I is 35 years. It is believed, however, that the replacement and training unit of the 1st Mts Rifle Div, the 3rd Mts Rifle (Gedre) Regt, stationed in Brandenburg-Hohenstein is not the only unit in charge of these and similar reserve training courses; other units involved may include the 12th Mts Rifle Regt Prenzlau, the 15th Mts Rifle Regt Leipzig, the 24th Mts Rifle Regt Gera and the 29th Mts Rifle Regt Prosa/Ruegen. While, during preceding years, such courses predominantly served to train functionaries for reserve officers, it appears that it is now being tried to extend these courses to the government sphere, i.e. employees and officials faithful to the regime. Special importance is of course attached to the training of teachers. Compare with info on resortist training of students [].

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II. Czechoslovakia**Recruiting and Replacement Administration**

A supplementary law to the National Defense Act of 1949 was passed by the Czech National Assembly on 16 April 1958. In this connection, Minister for National Defense Gen Lonsky made the following statements:

- a. The supplementary law does not extend the obligation of the people to serve with the armed forces but defines more exactly their relation to the armed forces, as well as tasks of the latter on the basis of changes which have taken place in the inner development of the country and its international position since 1949.

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- b. The supplementary law stresses the uniformity of the Czech armed forces i.e. the fact that people of all nationalities living in Czechoslovakia have the right and the obligation to serve with the armed forces.
- c. The equality of the Czech and Slovak languages is of great political importance. There is no longer the term "command language" which, so far, had been Czech.
- d. The supplementary law provides for an increased party influence in order to stabilize the socialist character of the army and to reach an increased political activity of members of the armed forces. (Czech press, Apr 1958).

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[] Comment. The imminent modification of the National Defense Act of 1949 had already been reported [] The exact wording of the supplementary law is not yet available. The extension of the obligation to serve to members of minority groups probably is a measure by means of which it is being tried to overcome the personnel shortage. [] The induction of ethnic Germans for military service has repeatedly been reported [] Reports on measures meant to intensify ideological indoctrination of the army in accordance with party concepts and to improve discipline have also been received from Poland and Hungary).

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C. Army

I. USSR (GDR)1. Troop MovementsWithdrawal of Soviet Troops from the GDR to the USSR

Acc to supplementary info, the total number of shpmts which left the GDR until 18 Apr and presum went to the USSR, increased to about 190 trains incl at least 10 personnel shpmts without equipment. [] 25X1

[] Comment. It can be assumed that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the GDR has now been completed. Detailed info will be forwarded later.) 25X1

2. Training

During the third week of April, the bulk of the Mecc and Tank Divs continued their training at posts. In add to firing practices of arty units at several tng grounds, intensive engr training is being conducted at water tng sites since mid-April. Observations included:

a. Arty Training

- 12 - 17 Apr, elms Arty Regt/19th Gds Mecc Div (Tank) from Magdeburg were rotated to Letzlinger Heide, presum for firing;
- 15 Apr, elms presum Arty Regt/11th Gds Tk Div transferred to Koenigsbrueck tng grounds;
- 17 -23 Apr, elms 34th Arty Div/GSFG, were rotated, presum to Altengrabow, for firing.

b. Engr Training

- 6 and 21 Apr, elms 36th Bridge Bldg Regt/GSFG from Magdeburg left the post for engr training;
- 12 Apr, small elms presum u/i Engr Regt/GSFG transferred from Bernburg;
- 16/17 Apr, engr units/First Gds Mecc Army (Tank), along with numerous tanks and amph tanks presum of 9th Tk Div, held what seemed to be a demonstration at the engr tng grounds south Muehlberg;
- 18 Apr, elms u/i Engr Regt/First Gds Mecc Army (Tank) were entrained in Dresden, presum for training at water tng sites;
- 18 Apr, bulk Engr Bn/20th Gds Mecc Div (Tank) from Jena transferred, presum for training at water tng sites.

c. Other training

- 26 Apr, elms 14th Gds Mecc Div/third Gds Mecc Army, which, among other units, had transferred to the Magdeburg distr in several shpmts on 13 Apr, returned to Justerbog with tank and arty units; in two shpmts;
- prior to 18 April, elms 3rd Gds AAA Div alternately practiced outside of Magdeburg post [] 25X1

[] Comment. The fact that training outside posts is still insignificant is normal for the tng phase in April. However, in 1957, intensive engr training at water tng sides started 4 - 5 weeks earlier. 25X1

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3. Higher Echelon Personnel

March, Gen Bysnochenko was transferred from the Perleberg Fliegerhorst (5342) to Magdeburg. He was succeeded by a colonel whose name has not yet become known.

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[] Comment. Gen Bysnochenko has been known as Commander 16th Mecz Div since 1956.)

March, Schwerin, Fritsch-Kaserne (5544): Colonel Kulishov succeeded Gen Sychev who had been transferred to the USSR.

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[] Comment. Hq 94th Gds Lts Rifle Div (Mecz) is carried in Fritsch-Kaserne. The relief of Gen Sychev has already been reported

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II. GDR

1. Order of Battle

The Trans Bn of the 5th MD is located in Prenzlau (des-2).

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[] Comment. The Bn is part of the 1st Trans Regt which had been dissolved in mid-1957. The Trans Bn of the 3rd MD i.e., the Third Army is carried in Leipzig.)

In mid-January, Colonel Black succeeded Brig Gen Rentsch as Commander of the 5th MD (des-3).

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[] Comment. Although not yet confirmed, the report appears credible [] Brig Gen Johnes has presum been replaced by Brig Gen Wagner in the 3rd MD already in Nov/Dec 57.)

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2. Training

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On 13 Apr, several troop shipments were unloaded in the Mirow-Dranse area northeast of Wittstock []. In mid-April, AA units were still stationed on Wustrow Peninsula, units of various branches of service at Luebtheen and Nochten [] grounds, and engineers on the Elbe River east of Rossau []. Betw 17 and 22 Apr, units of the Potsdam garrison and, allegedly, arty units, from Oranienburg had left for practices []. Since early April, preparations have been under way for the parade to be held on 1 May in East Berlin. Units which were to participate in this parade had been transferred to tent camps with hw weapons and were to be shipped to the Berlin area on 22 Apr [].

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[] Comment. Betw 1 and 20 Apr, traffic of columns and rail shipments within the 5th MD was normal. It cannot yet be determined if and to what extent it had been connected with preparations for the May parade or exercises. The first transfers to East Berlin in connection with the celebrations on 1 May had already taken place in mid-April.)

III. Poland.

Order of Battle

In Nov 56, the 6th Arty (Shock) Div was organized as follows:

Div Hq [] Graudenz
19th Arty Brig (122-mm field hows) [] Graudenz
21 Arty Brig (152-mm gun hows) [] Graudenz

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u/i Arty Brig (122-mm field hows) Graudenz
u/i RL unit (M-13) Graudenz
u/i Mortar unit (160-mm M-43 mortars) Hohensalza.

The 19th Arty Brig (commander Lieutenant Colonel Piotrowski) had a strength of about 900 men, who wore red cap bands. The Brig was organized as follows:

1st Bn } each of 3 batteries, with 3 platoons, and 2 x 122-mm field hows
2nd Bn }
3rd Bn reserve training
NCO school (120 men) ☐ 25X1

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☐ Comment. The organization of the 6th Arty Div corresponds to that of the other two Polish Arty Divs, the 8th Arty Div in Arys and the u/i Arty Div in Glogau. The info fails to mention the 96th Arty Regt in Thorn, u/i hv how arty unit in Bromberg, and u/i RL (mortar) unit in Culm. The subordination of these units to the 6th Arty Div needs confirmation.)

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D. Air Force

I. USSR

Logistics

During the first days of April, a 1,300 ton shipment including 25X1 tank cars, radio devices and repair-shop trucks arrived at Stendal airfield. At the same time, preparations were made to make the runway ready for use [REDACTED].

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[REDACTED] Comment: Material and technically equipped Soviet personnel who had already arrived in March 1958, served for the improvement of the airfield installations conducted by the Soviets themselves. On 15 March 1958, VEB Ing. Tiefbau (civil engineering) Brandenburg had to vacate the airfield. There are also strong indications that the air base installations will be improved without impairing possible use of the installations by flying units during construction work.

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E. Navy

I. USSR

New Observations Concerning the ADKA Class

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[] landing craft of the ADKA Class furnish the following supplementary information:

1. All units of the MP-2 Class [] are equipped with a boom, about 6.5 meters long; it is mounted on the fore end of the bridge and has an estimated maximum carrying capacity of 2 to 3 tons.
2. Two different types of masts have so far been observed:
 - a. Height up to radar gear: about 19 meters above load water-line, with tripod supports fixed approximately in the middle of the mast;
 - b. height up to radar gear: about 16.7 meters above load water-line, with tripod supports fixed about 1 meter below the radar platform.
3. The chine-type frame which begins at the stem (bow flap), about 1 meter above the water-line, and extends about 12 meters toward the stern has not been observed before with landing craft. It is unusual that the bow flap is included, thus making it necessary to place the lowest hinge just above the frame.
4. The vessels of the MP-2 Class are equipped with only one starboard bow-anchor and the stern anchor [].

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Changes on the TALLIN

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[] the following changes of equipment have been made:

1. The FISH-EYE fire-control radars have been replaced by HAWK SCREECH radars. The forward device has the same location, while the one in the rear has been advanced by 2 to 3 meters, so that it is now located approximately in the middle between the aft stack and aft turret.
2. The old-type SEA-NET radar has been replaced by the new type.
3. New positions have been constructed between the tripod of the main mast and immediately at the after edge of the second stack. As far as can be determined [] the first position may be an operating post for the radar and the second a control position similar to the American AA control positions. No changes of armament were observed [].

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F. Premilitary and Paramilitary Training

GDR

1. Militia and Police TroopsGerman Border Police (DGP)

Between 17 Mar and 3 Apr 1958, oath-taking ceremonies and awarding of flags took place with units Smolens, Krammer, Gaing, and Waseberg (press). On 9, 12, and 14 Apr, additional DGP units and oins were sworn in by the Minister of the Interior, VP Maj Gen Karl Maron, and DGP Commander Brig Gen Paul Ludwig.

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Comment. The above units apparently are DGP units. Gaing has been known as Commander of the 2nd Brig.

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The Hq 4th Brig has been located in Rudolstadt since Feb 58. The equipping of DGP units with SU-76 and portable radiotelephones started in Jan/Feb 58.

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Comment. See report No 12/58, P : Tanks reported from Dittichshuette and/or Rudolstadt are presumably also SU-76s.)

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An increased number of Border Police Assistants (GPAs) has been employed in the border area since late 1957/early 1958. The GPAs who are simultaneously holding a job in the border area, are to reinforce border companies which have not yet reached their authorized strength, and to participate in guarding duty and searches. They are being instructed in general border service and the use of weapons by the respective companies. After DGP units will have been filled up to their authorized strength, the GPAs will be turned over to the Kreis Police for similar tasks.

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2. Premilitary and Paramilitary OrganizationsCombat Groups (KG)

In early April 1958, it was announced at a meeting of KG-Hundert-schaften of East Berlin factories that training of subleaders has terminated in March. It is now being planned to continue with training on AT guns, AA guns, and RLs on a broad basis, and to make available to KGs an own vehicle park with armored scout cars, armored pers carries, sedans, and trucks.

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Comment. Training on the above weapons has already been observed in the Berlin area in summer 57. So far, small arms and transport vehicles have also been available to KGs if required but had not been permanently turned over to KGs.

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